35TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

S. 500.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 11, 1859.

Mr. MASON, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported the following bill; which was read and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

Authorizing the President of the United States to use the public force of the United States in cases therein specified.

Whereas, the President of the United States, in discharge of the duty imposed on him by the Constitution, "from time to time, [to] give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," has informed Congress, that by reason of the distracted and revolutionary condition of Mexico, of certain of the States of Central America, and occasionally of those in South America, as well the property as the lives and liberties of American citizens, peaceably and rightfully within their respective limits, are subjected to lawless violence or otherwise placed in peril by those claiming to be in authority, and for redress whereof negotiation and remonstrance in the forms of diplomatic intercourse are attempted in vain; and it being manifest to Congress that such condition of things in the States aforesaid will continue so long as government is found there in the unsettled and irresponsible condition, at present, and at times heretofore tolerated by their people; and it being the indispensable duty of the government of the United States, to protect its citizens

against lawless violence without the limits of the United States whenever found on lawful errand: Therefore—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever it shall be made to appear to the President that any citizen or citizens of the United States have been subjected, within the limits of any of the States aforesaid, and without commensurate offence on their part, to any act of force, on the part of those claiming to be in authority therein, affecting the life or liberty of such citizen or citizens, and the case, in the opinion of the President, demands on his part the interposition hereinafter provided, it shall be lawful for the President to use the land and naval forces of the United States, or such part of them as he may deem requisite, in such way as in his judgment may be most effectual by force within the country so offending, to give full and adequate relief and protection to any citizen or citizens of the United States so injured or imperilled, and at his discretion to obtain redress for any wrongs so done: *Provided,* That the President shall report to Congress (if in session forthwith, or if in recess at its first meeting thereafter,) whatever may be done by him at any time in execution of this act: *And provided, further,* That as soon as the object shall be obtained in any case where the provisions of this act shall be carried into execution, the land and naval forces so used shall be withdrawn.